

## 'India keen to promote operational oceanography'

Our Bureau

*Union Minister lays foundation stone for ITCO-Ocean in Hyderabad*

Hyderabad, Jan 4:

An International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCO-Ocean) is being setup in Hyderabad by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

It will be part of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), which also has a national Tsunami Centre.

The Union Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Y S Chowdary who laid the foundation stone said that the move is part of a commitment of Government of India in helping the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in their efforts in capacity building in areas of Operational Oceanography.

The Union Minister said India wants to promote operational oceanography since it plays an important role in translating the benefits of science for the common public. A few examples being Potential Fishing Zones advisories to fishermen, Ocean State Forecasts for mariners, Tsunami & Storm Surge Early warnings, etc.

Satheesh Sheno, Director, INCOIS said the Ministry had also signed a Memorandum of Agreement with IOC/UNESCO on July 4, 2013 to cooperate in the capacity development programmes. For this, Govt of India has already allocated Rs 100 crore over a period of 5 years.

The ITCO-Ocean building complex will comprise of the Academic block with an area of 80,000 Sq ft and an International Hostel with an area of 40,000 Sq ft. to be built at a cost of about Rs 50 crore.

Currently operating from the interim facility at INCOIS, ITCO-Ocean has so far conducted six international and seven national training programmes by training more than 360 researchers, university students, state and central government officials from 22 countries.

(This article was published on January 4, 2016)